United Nations A/70/1012–S/2016/696

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 69 (a)
Rights of indigenous peoples

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 9 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 69 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-13876 (E) 170816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

On 9 August 2016, Ukraine, along with the international community, marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Reaffirming its commitment to the principles of respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, as expressed, in particular, in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Ukraine guarantees the preservation and promotion of ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of all national minorities of the country.

Ukraine guarantees the protection and enjoyment of the inherent right to self-determination of the Crimean Tatar people within the sovereign and independent Ukrainian State and recognizes Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, the executive body of the Kurultai of the Crimean Tatar people, as the competent authority of the Crimean Tatars.

Ukraine once again draws the world's attention to the facts regarding systemic pressure on the Crimean Tatars, of reprisals against the Ukrainian citizens on the ground of nationality and of the organization of ethnically and politically motivated persecutions in the temporarily occupied part of the territory of Ukraine by the State authorities of the Russian Federation, which started from the date of the temporary occupation of Crimea and which embody a conscious policy of the ethnocide of the Crimean Tatars.

We call on the international community to condemn the actions of the occupying authorities, to make necessary efforts to protect the Crimean Tatars from discrimination and harassment by the Russian Federation and to prevent the occurrence of the genocide of the Crimean Tatar people, who have already experienced the tragedy of forced deportation 70 years ago.

We are convinced that all those responsible for the occupation and the illegal attempt to annex Crimea, as well as for systematic and widespread violations of human rights in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, will be brought to justice.

Ukraine will not cease to exert its utmost efforts for the complete de-occupation of the territory of Crimea and for the restoration of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and calls on the partners to reinforce their pressure on the invading country.

United Nations A/70/1013–S/2016/697

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 44
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 8 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 4 August 2016 addressed to you by Yasa Yeşilada, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Office of the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit Çevik
Permanent Representative

16-13953 (E) 160816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 8 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 19 July 2016 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/70/994-S/2016/628), which yet again contains false assertions similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations and violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority on provision of air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. As for the false assertions regarding the "illegally issued notices to airmen", it must be underlined that activities within the Ercan advisory airspace that require notices to airmen are carried out by or coordinated with the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in accordance with article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

Similarly, the claim in the letter regarding the Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, this claim ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As to the repeated false allegations regarding Ercan Airport in the north, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in North Cyprus have been providing regular, reliable and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island, in line with its isolationist policy which has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have taken place with the full knowledge and permission of the Civil Aviation Department of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control.

Moreover, the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriots, which the Greek Cypriot side attempts to perpetuate by encouraging the international community to deem all airports and seaports in Northern Cyprus "illegal", is in complete contravention of international law, as well as the call made by the then Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437), in which he clearly states:

> I would hope that they [the members of the Security Council] can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating

the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984).

The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety satisfies all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing for safe and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan Airport and using airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. All airports in Northern Cyprus operate in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre operates in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2015 alone, the number of passengers who used Ercan Airport stood at nearly 3,500,000 (compared with 3,250,000 in 2014), while a 7 per cent increase in that number is expected in 2016. Moreover, in 2015, nearly 26,000 planes used Ercan Airport for arrival and departure, and about 210,000 planes used the Ercan advisory airspace, a total figure that is expected to increase by 7 per cent in 2016. In that respect, it must be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944, and that it is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

At a time when the comprehensive settlement negotiations are progressing swiftly in a results-oriented atmosphere, I deem it necessary to stress the need to fully channel all of our efforts towards achieving a just and lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters and the Joint Declaration of 11 February 2014, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation with two constituent States of equal status. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue the use of such counterproductive and outdated rhetoric, which is not reflective of the joint vision and cooperation promoted by the leaders of both communities on the island since the resumption of the settlement talks in May 2015. As the two future partners on the island of Cyprus, we should never lose sight of the fact that the solution of the Cyprus problem will deal comprehensively with all pending issues affecting the two sides and thus should focus all of our efforts on the ultimate goal of settlement.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that we, the Turkish Cypriot side, are committed to maintaining our constructive and positive stance within the context of your good offices mission in Cyprus and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 44, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yasa **Yeşilada**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations S/2016/698

Security Council

Distr.: General
10 August 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 9 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the Transitional Government of National Unity, I have the honour to forward the response to the draft mandate renewal for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan that was circulated on 7 August 2016.

I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate the response among the members of the Security Council and issue it as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Joseph Moum **Malok**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

16-13885 (E) 120816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 9 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of South Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Republic of South Sudan

Ministry of Cabinet Affairs
Office of the Minister

Response of the Transitional Government of National Unity to the draft mandate renewal for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan circulated on 7August 2016

The Transitional Government of National Unity,

Notes with anxiety and serious concern the contents and context of the draft mandate renewal for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) advanced by the penholder, the United States of America, and circulated on 7 August 2016, in preparation for discussion by the Security Council, and decides to respond in view of its negative implications in the Republic of South Sudan,

While concurring with the penholder, the United States, on the repercussions of the fighting that took place in Juba on 8 July 2016, including on the political, security, economic and humanitarian situation in the Republic of South Sudan, the Transitional Government of National Unity recalls its responses to the communiqués of the Council of Ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) of 11 July 2016 and of the IGAD Plus Heads of State and Government of 29 July 2016, respectively, on the situation in the Republic of South Sudan following the unfortunate eruption of fighting in Juba on 8 July 2016,

Cognizant of the urgent need to expeditiously take measures to address the repercussions outlined above in consultation and collaboration with IGAD, the African Union, UNMISS and the United Nations, and therefore welcoming the proposition that the Joint Monitoring and Evaluating Commission, IGAD, UNMISS, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism and the parties to the Agreement conduct a permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements workshop in Juba on 30 August 2016, and to review the provisions of chapter II on security arrangements of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan,

Recognizing its responsibility as the Government of a sovereign United Nations Member State, herein commits to continue discussing with the IGAD authorities the implementation of the communiqué of 5 August 2016 of the Second IGAD Plus Extraordinary Summit on the Situation in the Republic of South Sudan as noted by the penholder, the United States, notwithstanding its reservation on parts therein,

While firmly committed to the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan in letter and spirit, and reaffirming its resolve to observe the ceasefire declared by the President of the Republic on 11 July 2016, the decrees issued as well as orders directing the commanders of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and the other organized

forces in the Republic of South Sudan to protect civilians and their properties, now expresses its disappointment and decides to submit its views as follows:

1. Makes the general observation that the draft UNMISS mandate renewal of the penholder, the United States, is intended to undercut the provisions contained in the IGAD Plus Heads of State and Government communiqué of 5 August 2016 and undermine IGAD as a regional authority;

2. The draft UNMISS mandate renewal of the penholder, the United States, was generated on 7 August 2016, just two days after the Second IGAD Plus Extraordinary Summit, in total rejection of provision No. 20 of the IGAD Plus Heads of State and Government communiqué of 5 August 2016, which requests the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to urgently transmit the said communiqué to the Secretary-General, who will, in turn, relay the same to the Security Council. The Transitional Government of National Unity interprets this hasty intervention to mean that the penholder disagrees with the decision of the IGAD Plus Heads of State and Government, with a view to influencing the decision of the Security Council on the communiqué in favour of its earlier unrealistic and unfair proposal, in total disregard of IGAD as a regional authority;

3. Underscores statements cited below in the draft UNMISS mandate renewal of the penholder, the United States, which seriously undermines the sovereignty of the Republic of South Sudan as a United Nations Member State, and that the Transitional Government strongly objects to these propositions as follows:

(a) Provision No. 3 of the draft UNMISS mandate renewal states that a workshop is to be held in Juba to determine by 31 August 2016 the maximum number, type and armaments of security forces to remain in Juba and to assist in executing and verifying the redeployment of those forces and armaments to agreed locations by 15 September 2016. This provision is uncalled for because it is adequately covered in the IGAD Plus communiqué of 5 August 2016 and the designation of specific dates to accomplish it effectively undermines the agreement between the Transitional Government and IGAD Plus on the same issue;

(b) Provision 4 authorizes UNMISS to use all necessary means to carry out its tasks, which read together with the substance of provision No. 5, stresses that such actions include, but are not limited to, defending the protection of civilian sites, establishing areas around the sites that are not used for hostile purposes by any forces and addressing threats to the sites. This provision obviously diminishes the sovereign responsibility of government security agents. Furthermore, it must be noted that the UNMISS Tongpiny site is in the proximity of Juba International Airport and could be determined under this provision to constitute part of the areas mentioned above. The Transitional Government will never entertain any proposal that compromises its authority for control over Juba International Airport and, in this connection, expresses its desire to relocate UNMISS from Tongpiny to its Jebel site to ensure the Transitional Government's control over Juba International Airport;

(c) Provision No. 7 states as follows:

(i) Authorizes the Regional Protection Force to use all necessary means, including undertaking robust and active steps and engaging in direct operations where necessary, to accomplish the Regional Protection Force's mandate. This implies that the Regional Protection Force can engage in combat in the sovereign territory of the Republic of South Sudan, an act that

will further complicate the security of the country and exacerbate the suffering of the people of South Sudan;

(ii) Facilitate the conditions for safe and free movement into, out of, and around Juba, including through protecting the means of ingress and egress from the city and major lines of communication and transport within Juba. This again means that the Transitional Government will in effect surrender its responsibility of control over Juba as the capital of the Republic of South Sudan;

(iii) Protect the airport to ensure the airport remains operational, and protect key facilities in Juba essential to the well-being of the people of Juba. Giving the Special Representative of the Secretary-General such powers implies that the Special Representative shall govern the Republic of South Sudan and is hence the de facto President of the Republic of South Sudan;

(d) Provision No. 8 consists of undisguised threats such as that further potential action shall be taken, including appropriate additions to the mandate of the Regional Protection Force, depending on the results of the consultations;

4. Expresses alarm and apprehension regarding the elaborate request that the Secretary-General report and make open-ended decisions, which decisions shall form the basis for further Security Council action(s) on the Transitional Government of National Unity and/or the Republic of South Sudan, and emphasizes the following:

(a) The Secretary-General has constantly advanced negative views against the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and its leadership, including his recent intrusion in the twenty-seventh African Union Summit, in Kigali, with the obvious intention of influencing the African Union's decisions in favour of his "regime change strategy". The Transitional Government demands that reports on the situation in the Republic of South Sudan be generated and verified by a neutral authority;

(b) Determines that the overall intention of provisions 13, 14, 15 and 16 in the draft mandate renewal of the penholder, the United States, is to find ways and means of justifying its long-standing intention to press the Secretary-General and others within the United Nations system and its partners to fulfil the recommendations in annex 1, which include the imposition of an arms embargo on South Sudan, equating the Government of South Sudan with a rebel movement, and the desire to impose sanctions on the leaders of South Sudan;

(c) The Transitional Government calls upon the other Security Council Member States to judge the Republic of South Sudan objectively and acknowledge its sincere commitment to the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, and recognizes the excesses of the former First Vice-President that led to the recent eruption of fighting on 8 July 2016;

5. The Transitional Government clearly understands the intentions of the options outlined in annex 1, invoking Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, and points out that these are designed to:

(a) Further weaken the security capacity of the Republic of South Sudan;

(b) Strengthen foreign forces under UNMISS and the added Regional Protection Force in preparation for an invasion of South Sudan and its relegation to the status of a United Nations protectorate;

6. Provision 2, in relation to compliance of the Transitional Government with the Status of Forces Agreement: The Transitional Government recognizes its obligations set out in the Status of Forces Agreement and admits some irregularities being committed by individuals, who have not been well-trained in the field of international law. The Transitional Government is exerting serious efforts to improve its primary duties in protecting UNMISS personnel, foreign diplomats and all its foreign guests by conducting regular informative workshops, seminars and training courses for law enforcement agencies in the fields of privileges and immunities, human rights, international humanitarian law and other related international laws and conventions. In this regard, the Transitional Government welcomes dialogue with UNMISS and the international community to support the Government in this important endeavour;

7. In particular, the Transitional Government is aware of the repeated complaints about the full enjoyment by UNMISS of unrestricted freedom of movement as stipulated in paragraph 12 of section 4, and thus commits to continue improving on this shortcoming. While acknowledging the challenge, the Transitional Government calls upon UNMISS to:

(a) Help in the mobilization of resources and assist the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in improving infrastructures and implementing quick-impact projects in areas of high need;

(b) Urge the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to carry out her obligations under the Status of Forces Agreement, to ensure the observance and implementation of paragraph 5 of section 4 whereby "UNMISS and its members shall refrain from any action or activity incompatible with the impartial and international nature of their duties or inconsistent with the spirit of the Status of Forces Agreement, and that UNMISS and its members shall respect all local laws and regulations", to ensure the sovereignty of the State;

(c) Cooperate with the Transitional Government in order to fulfil the provision for UNMISS to enjoy the privilege of full unrestricted freedom of movement granted to UNMISS through coordination between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan and UNMISS, especially when UNMISS personnel are moving on land, as well as to coordinate with the South Sudan Civil Aviation when moving by air. This is in order to ensure the safety and security of UNMISS personnel and to avoid a reoccurrence of the unfortunate incident of the shooting down of an UNMISS helicopter on 21 December 2012;

(d) Implement the provisions of paragraphs 18, 23 and 24 of section 5, i.e. to render services to South Sudan in the field of transmission and distribution of electricity and cooperation in matters concerning sanitation and health, particularly with respect to the control of communicable diseases and the recruitment of qualified local staff. The procedures for recruiting national staff should comply with the national labour laws and regulations of the Republic of South Sudan.

United Nations S/2016/699

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 August 2016

Original: English

Note verbale dated 11 August 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the Security Council, and, in its capacity as the coordinator of the group of African States members of the Security Council, has the pleasure to attach herewith the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 11 August 2016, on the situation in South Sudan (see annex) and to kindly request that the communiqué be circulated as a document of the Council.

16-14026 (E) 160816

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 11 August 2016 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

11 August 2016

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Egypt, coordinator of the African members of the Security Council and, has the honour to transmit herewith the communiqué adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council at its 616th meeting, held today, 11 August 2016, on the situation in South Sudan (see enclosure).

The Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union is kindly requesting the Permanent Mission of Egypt to facilitate the circulation of the communiqué as a document of the Security Council.

Enclosure

Communiqué

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union, at its 616th meeting held on 11 August 2016, adopted the following decision on the situation in South Sudan:

The Council,

1. Takes note of the briefing provided by the African Union Commission and the statements made by representatives of South Sudan and Ethiopia in its capacity as the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD);

2. Recalls its previous communiqués and press statements on the situation in South Sudan, in particular the communiqué (PSC/PR/1(DCXII)) adopted at its 611th meeting, held on 11 July 2016, in Kigali, Rwanda, as well as the decision of the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on the situation in South Sudan, also held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 18 July 2016;

3. Once again, expresses serious concern over the outbreak of fighting that took place on 7 July 2016 in Juba, resulting in loss of lives, a dire humanitarian crisis and other tragic consequences for civilians and strongly condemns human rights violations, including sexual violence against women and girls. Council calls for the necessary investigations to be carried out, in order to bring the perpetrators to justice;

4. Commends the IGAD Plus for its continued leadership and unwavering commitment to the search for a sustainable resolution to the crisis in South Sudan. In this context, the Council welcomes the convening, on 5 August 2016, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, of the Second Extraordinary Summit of IGAD Plus on the situation in South Sudan and endorses the decisions contained in its communiqué, in particular:

(a) The call for an urgent in-depth independent investigation by the African Union on the fighting that took place in Juba and to identify those responsible with a view of ensuring that they are held accountable for their criminal acts;

(b) The request to the African Union Commission, in consultation with the United Nations, and building on existing regional and continental capabilities, to look into the best mechanisms for timely and effective action to address large-scale mass atrocities in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;

(c) The call for the Security Council to extend the United Nations Mission in South Sudan with a revised mandate including the deployment of the Regional Protection Force;

(d) The acceptance, in principle, by the Government of the Republic of South Sudan of the deployment of the Regional Protection Force; and

(e) The decision encouraging Dr. Riek Machar to rejoin the peace process and the commitment by General Taban Deng Gai to step down upon the return of Dr. Machar with a view to returning to the status quo ante in line with the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan;

5. Requests IGAD to provide an update to the meeting of the Peace and Security Council scheduled to take place on 18 August 2016, on the outcomes of the meeting of the Regional Chiefs of Defence Staff, which is scheduled to take place on Friday, 12 August 2016, in Addis Ababa;

6. Commends the sterling efforts, in very challenging circumstances, of the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, former President Alpha Oumar Konaré, and the Chairman of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, former President Festus Mogae, and continues to encourage them to persevere in their work in support of the peace efforts in South Sudan;

7. Once again calls upon the parties to the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan to embrace mutual trust, put the interest of their country and its people above everything else and scrupulously implement the Peace Agreement;

8. Decides to dedicate a meeting, every month, to the situation in South Sudan with a view to monitoring progress on the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and calls upon the African Union Commission to remain fully engaged in consultations on the modalities for the deployment of the Regional Protection Force in South Sudan;

9. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/70/1019–S/2016/700

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 August 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (b)
Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 10 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the comments of the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, on recent accusations made by the Russian Federation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-14285 (E) 230816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments of the President: Russia's accusing Ukraine of terrorism in occupied Crimea is absurd and cynical

10 August 2016

Russia's accusations that Ukraine launched terror attacks in the occupied Crimea are equally as cynical and insane as its claims that there are no Russian troops in eastern Ukraine.

These fantasies pursue the only goal: a pretext for more military threats against Ukraine.

Ukraine resolutely condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We would never, ever, use terror to de-occupy Crimea.

Russia provides money and arms to support terrorism in Ukraine. It has become a State-led policy on the occupied areas of Crimea and eastern Ukraine that resembles the Soviet Great Terror.

Russia will fail in its efforts to undermine Ukraine's reputation in the international arena and to press for lifting sanctions with such provocative acts.

I urge Russian authorities to honour international law, especially to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and human rights.

I expect that Russia will implement security clauses of the Minsk accords, including through Normandy Four procedures.

Ukraine is devoted to restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity exclusively through political and diplomatic means. That includes the de-occupation of Crimea.

United Nations S/2016/701

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 August 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 10 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from His Excellency Agila Saleh Issa Gwaider, President of the House of Representatives of Libya, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim O. A. **Dabbashi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-13955 (E) 150816 160816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

I have the honour to convey to you, on behalf of the members of the House of Representatives and the Libyan people, our utmost thanks and appreciation for your efforts to maintain international peace and security. We should also like to reaffirm our full support for your efforts to reach an accord in our country.

Although our country is making progress towards stability and political consensus, we should like to draw your attention to the extremely serious matter of recent developments in the security situation, and the attempt of the so-called Benghazi Defence Companies to mount another attack on some of the eastern parts of the country with the goal of reaching the city of Benghazi, after our national army had successfully thwarted their previous attack.

We should also like to take this opportunity to warn of the serious consequences of the above-mentioned developments, and remind you that those groups have committed acts of terrorism that amount to war crimes, such as spreading fear in peaceful villages, the destruction of property and infrastructure, the abduction of innocent civilians and the extrajudicial killing of prisoners. Some of their leaders have criminal records and are linked to extremist groups that have been designated by international bodies as terrorist groups.

Therefore, given our obligation toward our people, and with reference to Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), which calls for protection of civilians in Libya, we call on you to assume fully your responsibility to deter this aggression and to condemn and punish all those who support and shelter these groups. We also wish to emphasize the threat posed by these attacks and the repercussions that they could have on political dialogue and the prospects for full reconciliation in our country.

(*Signed*) Agila **Saleh Issa**
President of the House of Representatives of Libya

United Nations A/70/1014–S/2016/702

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 August 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 34 (b)
Prevention of armed conflict: strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 10 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on yet another Kremlin-manufactured provocation (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34 (b), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

16-14040 (E) 170816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 10 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on yet another Kremlin-manufactured provocation

10 August 2016

Ukraine condemns in the strongest terms yet another Kremlin-manufactured provocation and rejects all accusations, which are completely groundless. Under a made-up pretext, the Kremlin is undertaking another hybrid special operation with the aim of justifying its future aggressive actions against Ukraine.

The concentration of Russian weaponry, armaments and military forces in the temporarily occupied territories in Crimea and Donbas as well as along the Ukrainian-Russian border is a cause of particular concern. This situation signals an imminent threat to the peace and stability not only in Ukraine, but also in the entire region. The occupying Power does not limit itself to daily shellings in Donbas, but also uses staged acts of sabotage in Crimea in an attempt to shift responsibility for its own destructive actions to Ukraine and our partners.

Ukraine resolutely and consistently condemns terrorism in all its manifestations. Against this background, it should be recalled that since the beginning of the Russian aggression against Ukraine in February 2014, thousands have lost their lives — both Ukrainians and foreign nationals — as a result of terrorist acts carried out with the financial, material and technical support of the aggressor State. In particular, it is worth recalling the downing of flight MH17 and the rocket attacks against Volnovakha, Mariupol, Kramatorsk and other peaceful Ukrainian cities and towns.

Ukraine urges the international community to take all possible political and diplomatic steps to exert influence on the Kremlin in order to prevent a new round of aggression against Ukraine and the ultimate disruption of the Minsk peace process by the Kremlin.

United Nations A/70/1015–S/2016/703

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
15 August 2016
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 72 (c)
Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 11 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to inform you that the Syrian Government rejects the allegations contained in the identical letters from the Permanent Representatives of Colombia, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America to the United Nations (A/70/986-S/2016/537). I should like to draw your attention to the following:

I. Many of signatories to the above-mentioned letter are representatives of regimes that, since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, have provided all manner of support to the armed terrorist groups in Syria. Those States have also tried to confer legitimacy on these groups by calling them at first "the moderate opposition", then "the moderate armed opposition", and finally "non-State armed groups". Some of those groups, such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusrah Front, have been listed as terrorist groups by the Security Council. Others have been kept off the list by certain influential States on the Security Council, even though they display all the hallmarks of terrorist groups, such as the Ahrar al-Sham movement, the Soldiers of al-Aqsa, the Islamic Front, the Soldiers of the Levant, the Islamic Turkmen party, the Army of Islam, the Green Battalion, the Suqur al-Izz Battalion, the Army of Muhammad and the Nur al-Din Zanki movement, which recently beheaded a Palestinian-Syrian child refugee who was less than 12 years old. The actions of that terrorist organization are no less criminal than those of any of the other terrorist groups that some still insist on calling "the moderate opposition". Since the beginning of the crisis in Syria, those groups have carried out bloodcurdling crimes, including eating livers, throwing civilians from tall buildings, mutilating bodies, and plundering entire villages and taking their women and children captive.

II. We share the letter's very proper sentiment, albeit expressed with intent to deceive, of concern "at the ongoing grave humanitarian situation in Syria, the continued violations of the cessation of hostilities, the lack of protection of civilians". However, we feel obliged to identify the real causes of the current situation. Why have humanitarian conditions in certain parts of Syria sunk to such a low level? Who are the parties that are violating the cessation of hostilities? Who is behind them and who is supporting them? Who are the parties that are flouting all instruments and laws on the protection of civilians? We answer as follows:

- The humanitarian situation in certain parts of Syria has deteriorated owing to the influx of thousands of terrorist mercenaries from across the Turkish border. Those mercenaries are supported by Saudi Arabia and Qatar with weapons, money and takfirist fatwas that justify killing children and raping women. The Turkish Government makes its territory available for camps where the terrorists are trained by officers from the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Turkey and Jordan in the use of various types of weapons. They are then brought into Syria where they run rampant in certain areas, terrorizing civilian inhabitants and using them as human shields.

- The armed terrorist groups and their backers are, first and foremost, responsible for the "violations of the cessation of hostilities". From day one of the agreement, they have rained hundreds of shells and rockets down on cities and peaceable residential neighbourhoods, leaving behind hundreds of dead and injured. Some people are wilfully forgetting that Muhammad Alloush, the man put forward by the States supporting the terrorist groups as the chief negotiator for the Syrian opposition in Geneva, was the person who, in the middle of intra-Syrian talks that were supposed to lead to a settlement between the Syrian factions, called openly for suspension of the cessation of hostilities agreement, reopening of the battlefronts, bombing of cities and attacks on the Syrian Army.

- The prescription for resolving the Syrian crisis is well known to all States. It lies in stamping out terrorism and taking on those who support, finance, promote and hand down fatwas justifying it. We remind the Member States that although the Security Council has adopted numerous counter-terrorism resolutions under Chapter VII, notably resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015), the Council has not taken a single step to implement them, because if the measures called for in those resolutions were to be implemented, the first States affected would be those that have decades-long alliances with certain influential Security Council members. That includes the Turkish regime, which has set up the camps in its territory where terrorists are trained before being sent into Syria to kill Syrians and destroy infrastructure, and, more importantly, the Saudi Arabian regime, which is the spiritual father of extremist terrorist organizations such as Al-Qaida, ISIL, Boko Haram and many others that take inspiration from the Wahhabi creed upon which the Al Saud regime was founded.

- It is ironic that the signatories to the above-mentioned letters should state that "it is incomprehensible to our Governments that people in Syria continue to be subjected to unconscionable violence of a historic scale". We say to the representatives of those regimes that it is the Syrian people in their entirety, the great and the small, who are asking why over 110 States have conspired

from the start of the crisis to subject them to unconscionable violence of a historic scale. It does not take research centres or in-depth studies to understand that the cause of the violence is the terrorism that certain States have supported with tens billions of dollars and tens of thousands of mercenary foreign terrorists. Nor do those States stop at that particular variety of terrorism. They combine it with a vicious economic terrorism perpetuated through coercive unilateral measures that have compounded the suffering of the Syrian people still further.

III. The Syrian Government reaffirms its commitment to delivering humanitarian assistance to persons affected by the crisis in all Syrian governorates, without discrimination, and to cooperating with the United Nations and international agencies engaged in humanitarian work in Syria to see to it that such assistance is delivered in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of international law and the guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/182, in particular respect for national sovereignty and the role of the State in supervising the distribution of humanitarian assistance within its territory.

IV. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its long-standing position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on intra-Syrian dialogue under Syrian leadership and without preconditions. It further stresses that the political approach goes hand in hand with counter-terrorism efforts, which will continue until all of the armed terrorist groups active in Syria have been eradicated.

V. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to compel those States that support and finance armed terrorist groups to refrain from doing so, in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions on countering terrorism and the financing thereof, particularly resolutions 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014), 2199 (2015) and 2253 (2015). Compliance with and enforcement of those resolutions is the key to resolving the situation in Syria and delivering an unprecedented amount of humanitarian assistance to those in need in Syria.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (c), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2016/704

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 August 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 11 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the prevention of terrorist attacks by Ukrainian special services in the Republic of Crimea.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

16-13970 (E) 150816 150816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 11 August 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation dated 11 August 2016

The Federal Security Service (FSB) forces of Russia have prevented terrorist attacks from being carried out in the Republic of Crimea. The attacks, planned by the Chief Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, targeted critical elements of infrastructure and essential services on the peninsula. The Russian intelligence services believe that the purpose of these planned acts of sabotage and terrorism was to destabilize the sociopolitical situation in the region during the period of preparations for, and the holding of, federal and regional elections.

A group of saboteurs were discovered near the town of Armyansk on the night of 6 to 7 August. While apprehending the terrorists, one Russian FSB officer was killed in the shootout. Explosive devices with a total charge of over 40 kilograms of trinitrotoluene (TNT) equivalent, munitions, grenades, landmines and other special weapons were found at the scene. Special units of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine made two further attempts to infiltrate the territory of the Republic of Crimea in the early hours of 8 August, but the groups of saboteurs and terrorists were intercepted by Russian FSB and other forces. The attempted incursions were shielded by armoured vehicles of the Ukrainian armed forces and by heavy firing from inside Ukrainian territory. One serviceman from the Russian Defence Ministry was killed during the firefight.

Russia has consequently taken action to dismantle the network of agents of the Ukrainian Defence Ministry's Chief Directorate of Intelligence in the Republic of Crimea. Ukrainian and Russian citizens who aided in the preparation of the terrorist attacks have been detained. These include Yevgeny Aleksandrovich Panov and Andrey Romanovich Zakhtey. They are all providing confessions.

We have repeatedly brought to our partners' attention that the current authorities in Kiev have no interest in searching for a peaceful solution to the problems in Ukraine, are not ready to compromise, and intend to resolve issues that arise through the use of force, which now includes terrorism.

The current situation — with attempted incursions into Crimea, the recent attempt on the life of Igor Plotnitsky, the Head of the Lugansk People's Republic, the constant firing along the line of contact in Donbass, and the actions of radical nationalists and so-called "activists" from around Ukraine that go beyond the bounds of any lawful framework — are a vivid illustration of the state of affairs in Ukraine today. The numerous provocations, efforts to portray Moscow as the enemy, and the deliberate cultivation of anti-Russian sentiments are nothing more than an attempt by the authorities in Kiev to distract their own people from the dire situation in the country and the problems affecting the majority of the population in Ukraine. There is a clear desire to divert public attention away from the actions and responsibility of those who are now in power and their inability to carry out long

overdue reforms or conduct an honest investigation into the murders of journalists and human rights activists and the crimes committed in 2014 during the Maidan protests, in Odessa, Mariupol and other cities.

The Ukrainian authorities are making unfounded claims in a bid to deny what is evident and once again shift the responsibility for their own actions to someone else, even the United Nations Security Council — anything to avoid taking meaningful steps to normalize the situation.

We call on our partners, whose efforts play a large part in keeping the current regime in Kiev in power, to show common sense and finally get their Ukrainian wards to end their constant provocations and fulfil their obligations in accordance with Minsk Agreements on a political settlement in Ukraine.

Mr. Poroshenko constantly touts the "unconditional support from the United States, the North Atlantic Trade Organization and the European Union" in his "fight to return annexed Crimea". The West's indulgence of this rhetoric has undoubtedly played a negative role in the Ukrainian leadership's criminal decisions to organize armed provocations in Russian Crimea. If the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces was involved in these decisions, he will have driven the final nail in the coffin of the peace process. If these decisions were taken without his knowledge, then that is even worse. Inaction by the Kiev authorities in the face of growing militaristic rhetoric and violent acts, planned and executed by so-called volunteer battalions and other extremists, is cause for grave concern.

We hope that Western capitals will draw the appropriate conclusions.

Attempts to destabilize the situation in Russian Crimea are doomed to fail. Stability and security in the Republic of Crimea will be ensured by Russia unconditionally.

We should also caution Kiev and its foreign backers that any harm to Russia or the death of Russian military personnel will not go unanswered.

As President Vladimir Putin noted on 10 August, given the current situation and until we see real positive steps from Kiev, renouncing its policy of terror and provocations, there is little sense in holding a "Normandy format" meeting, especially in early September in Beijing as requested by Mr. Poroshenko recently.

Once again, we call on our partners to use their influence with the authorities in Kiev to dissuade them from taking any dangerous steps that could have the gravest consequences. Playing with fire is dangerous.

United Nations S/2016/705

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 August 2016

Original: English

United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions 1996 (2011), 2046 (2012), 2057 (2012), 2109 (2013), 2132 (2013), 2155 (2014), 2187 (2014), 2206 (2015), 2223 (2015), 2241 (2015), 2252 (2015), and 2302 (2016) and statements by its President S/PRST/2014/16, S/PRST/2014/26, S/PRST/2015/9, S/PRST/2016/1, and S/PRST/2016/3,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, and national unity of the Republic of South Sudan, and *recalling* the importance of the principles of non-interference, good-neighbourliness, and regional cooperation,

Reiterating its grave alarm and concern regarding the political, security, economic, and humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, resulting from the internal Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) political dispute, and subsequent violence caused by the country's political and military leaders since December 2013, and *emphasizing* there can be no military solution to the situation in South Sudan and noting the "Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan" as the framework for durable peace, reconciliation and national cohesion in South Sudan,

Condemning in the strongest terms the fighting in Juba, South Sudan 8-11 July 2016, including attacks against civilians, United Nations personnel, premises and property, and *requesting* the Secretary-General expedite investigation into these attacks, *expressing deep concern* at the tense and fragile security situation in the rest of the country, including armed clashes and violence involving the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and SPLA-In Opposition (SPLA-IO), and armed groups, *reminding* all parties of the civilian character of protection of civilians sites in South Sudan, and *recalling* resolution 2206 (2015), which states in part that those who engage in attacks against United Nations missions, international security presences, or other peacekeeping operations, or humanitarian personnel may be subject to sanctions,

Further condemning the clashes that took place at the United Nations Protection of Civilians site in Malakal, South Sudan on 17-18 February, and *requesting* the United Nations Secretariat to ensure that the lessons learned from that incident are applied in the future operation of the mission,

Commending the work of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), and *noting with concern* that the extensive resources needed to protect civilians at the United Nations Protection of Civilians sites has limited UNMISS's presence outside the United Nations Protection of Civilians sites,

Condemning the continued obstruction of UNMISS by the Transitional Government of National Unity of South Sudan, including severe restrictions on freedom of movement and constraints on mission operations which may be in violation of its obligations under the Status of Forces Agreement,

Strongly condemning all human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law, including those involving extrajudicial killings, ethnically targeted violence, rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment and use of children, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, violence aimed at spreading terror among the civilian population, targeting of members of civil society, and attacks on schools, places of worship, hospitals, and United Nations and associated personnel, by all parties, including armed groups and national security forces, as well as the incitement to commit such abuses and violations, *further condemning* harassment and targeting of civil society, humanitarian personnel and journalists, and *emphasizing* that those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights must be held accountable, and that South Sudan's Transitional Government of National Unity bears the primary responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity,

Taking note of the decisions adopted by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Plus Heads of State and Government in their 16 July 2016 Communique for deployment of a "regional protection force," the African Union Assembly 18 July 2016 communique endorsing the IGAD Plus Heads of State and Government 16 July 2016 communique, and the 5 August 2016 Communique of the Second IGAD Plus Extra-Ordinary Summit on the Situation in South Sudan which notes the Transitional Government of National Unity's consent to deployment of such a force in principle and *welcoming* the readiness expressed by member states in the region to increase their contribution of troops to UNMISS for this purpose,

Encouraging countries in the region, the African Union Peace and Security Council, and IGAD to continue firmly engaging with South Sudanese leaders to address the current political crisis,

Determining that the situation in South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Demands* that all parties immediately end the fighting throughout South Sudan, and *further demands that* South Sudan's leaders implement the permanent ceasefire declared in the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (Agreement) and ceasefires for which they respectively called on 11 July 2016, and ensure that subsequent decrees and orders directing their commanders control their forces and protect civilians and their property are fully implemented;

2. *Demands* that the Transitional Government of National Unity of South Sudan comply with the obligations set out in the Status of Forces Agreement

between the Government of South Sudan and the United Nations, and immediately cease obstructing UNMISS in the performance of its mandate, and *further demands* the Transitional Government of National Unity immediately cease obstructing international and national humanitarian actors from assisting civilians, and facilitate freedom of movement for the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism and *calls on* the Transitional Government of National Unity to take action, to deter, and to hold those responsible to account for, any hostile or other actions that impede UNMISS or international and national humanitarian actors;

3. *Urges* the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM), UNMISS, and the parties to the Agreement to convene a Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements workshop in Juba to determine by 31 August 2016 the maximum number, type and armaments of security forces to remain in Juba and to assist in executing and verifying the redeployment of those forces and armaments to agreed locations by 15 September 2016 and *further urges* the IGAD, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, UNMISS and the parties to the Agreement to review the status of the Joint Military Ceasefire Commission, the CTSAMM, the Joint Operations Center, the Joint Integrated Police, the Strategic Defense and Security Review, the National Architecture, cantonment, and the unification of forces and to develop revised proposals to ensure their efficacy by 30 September 2016;

4. *Decides* to extend the UNMISS mandate, as set out in resolution 2252 (2015), until 15 December 2016, and *authorizes* UNMISS to use all necessary means to carry out its tasks;

5. *Emphasizes* that protection of civilians must be given priority in decisions about the use of available capacity and resources within the mission, *stresses* that UNMISS's mandate as set out in paragraph 8 of resolution 2252 (2015) includes authority to use all necessary means to protect United Nations personnel, installations and equipment to deter violence especially through proactive deployment and active patrolling, to protect civilians from threats, regardless of source, to create conditions conducive to delivery of humanitarian assistance by international and national actors, and support implementation the Agreement, and *stresses* that such actions include, but are not limited to, within UNMISS's capacity and areas of deployment, defending protection of civilians sites, establishing areas around the sites that are not used for hostile purposes by any forces, addressing threats to the sites, searching individuals attempting to enter the sites, and seizing weapons from those inside or attempting to enter the sites, removing from and denying entry of armed actors to the protection of civilians sites;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all appropriate steps and, in consultation with troop and police contributing countries, to identify options, including seeking the support of Member States, to enhance the safety and security of UNMISS's personnel to enable UNMISS to execute effectively its mandate in a complex security environment, including through improving UNMISS's early warning, surveillance, and information gathering capacities, enhancing quick response and crisis management capacity, including providing appropriate training and equipment, implementing more effective casualty and medical evacuation procedures, and taking active and effective steps to improve the planning and functioning of UNMISS's safety and security facilities and arrangements;

7. *Recalls* its resolution 2086 (2013) and *reaffirms* the basic principles of peacekeeping, as set forth in Presidential Statement S/PRST/2015/22, including consent of the parties, impartiality, and non-use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate, and *recognizes* that the mandate of each peacekeeping mission is specific to the need and situation of the country concerned;

8. *Decides* further that UNMISS shall include, consistent with paragraph 7 above, a Regional Protection Force established for an initial period until 15 December 2016, which will report to the overall UNMISS Force Commander, to be based in Juba, with the responsibility of providing a secure environment in and around Juba, including in support of the outcomes of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Workshop, and *in extremis* in other parts of South Sudan as necessary, and *stresses* that the Regional Protection Force will carry out its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 10, impartially and in strict compliance with international law, including, as applicable, international humanitarian law;

9. *Stresses* the critical importance that the Regional Protection Force has a clear, conditions-based exit strategy and *express its intent* to consider the presence of the Regional Protection Force in light of the changing situation on the ground;

10. *To advance* in cooperation with the Transitional Government of National Unity the safety and security of the people of South Sudan and to create an enabling environment for implementation of the Agreement, *authorizes* the Regional Protection Force to use all necessary means, including undertaking robust action where necessary and actively patrolling, to accomplish the Regional Protection Force's mandate, to:

(a) Facilitate the conditions for safe and free movement into, out of, and around Juba, including through protecting the means of ingress and egress from the city and major lines of communication and transport within Juba;

(b) Protect the airport to ensure the airport remains operational, and protect key facilities in Juba essential to the well-being of the people of Juba, as identified by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

(c) Promptly and effectively engage any actor that is credibly found to be preparing attacks, or engages in attacks, against United Nations protection of civilians sites, other United Nations premises, United Nations personnel, international and national humanitarian actors, or civilians;

11. *Requests* the Regional Protection Force to carry out these tasks as determined by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, *recognizes* that full and unrestricted freedom of movement is essential for the Regional Protection Force to carry out these tasks and *demands* the government provide support as needed for the Regional Protection Force to fulfill its mission and *calls upon* IGAD countries to continue to insist that the South Sudanese fulfil their commitments in this regard;

12. *Notes* consultations between the Transitional Government of National Unity and the states of the region referenced in the 5 August 2016 Communique of the Second IGAD Plus Extra-Ordinary Summit on the Situation in South Sudan, *expresses its intention* to review the results of these consultations and to consider potential action, including any appropriate updates to the mandate of the Regional Protection Force, arising from the results of those consultations;

13. *Urges* member states in the region to expedite contributions of rapidly deployable troops to ensure the full deployment of the Regional Protection Force as soon as possible;

14. *Decides* to increase the force levels of UNMISS up to a ceiling of 17,000 troops, including 4,000 for the Regional Protection Force, and *requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to expedite force and asset generation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen UNMISS's strategic communications capacity to undertake messaging on the ongoing impartial nature of UNMISS activities, including those of its Regional Protection Force;

Reports

16. *Requests* that the Secretary-General provide detailed information within 30 days on force generation, restructuring of the UNMISS force, logistical support and enablers, and civilian personnel to implement the mandate, as well as whether the Transitional Government of National Unity has maintained its consent in principle to deployment of the Regional Protection Force and not imposed any political or operational impediments to operationalizing the Regional Protection Force or obstructed UNMISS in the performance of its mandate, and *requests* the Secretary-General to review needs on the ground, and provide an updated assessment of the Regional Protection Force's operations, deployment, and future requirements, as well as any political or operational impediments to operationalizing the Regional Protection Force and obstructions to UNMISS in performance of its mandate, within 30 days after the adoption of this resolution, and every 30 days thereafter;

17. *Decides* that if in any of the reports pursuant to paragraph 16 above the Secretary General reports political or operational impediments to operationalizing the Regional Protection Force or obstructions to UNMISS in performance of its mandate, due to the actions of the Transitional Government of National Unity, within five days of receipt of such report it shall consider appropriate measures including those measures described in the draft resolution in Annex;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Council on implementation of the UNMISS mandate including UNMISS' Regional Protection Force, and to present the recommendations on the steps to adapt UNMISS to the situation on the ground and to increase efficiency of the implementation of its mandate in a comprehensive written report covering issues including strengthening safety and security of United Nations personnel and facilities to be submitted within 90 days of the date of adoption of this resolution, and further expresses its intention to consider the Secretary-General's recommendations within the context of the next UNMISS mandate extension;

19. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Annex — Draft Resolution

Determining that the situation in South Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

Arms Embargo

1. *Decides* that, for a period of one year from the date of adoption of this resolution, all Member States shall immediately take the necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to the territory of South Sudan, including to the Government of South Sudan or the SPLA-IO, from or through member state's territories or by their nationals, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned, and technical assistance, training, financial or other assistance, related to military activities or the provision, maintenance or use of any arms and related materiel, including the provision of armed mercenary personnel whether or not originating in their territories;

2. *Decides* that the measure imposed in paragraph 1 of this resolution shall not apply to the supply, sale or transfer of:

   a) Arms and related materiel, as well as training and assistance, intended solely for support of or use by UN personnel, including UNMISS and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA);

   b) Non-lethal military equipment intended solely for humanitarian or protective use, and related technical assistance or training, as notified in advance to the Committee;

   c) Protective clothing, including flak jackets and military helmets, temporarily exported to South Sudan by United Nations personnel, representatives of the media and humanitarian and development workers and associated personnel, for their personal use only;

   d) Arms and related materiel temporarily exported to South Sudan by the forces of a State which is taking action, in accordance with international law, solely and directly to facilitate the protection or evacuation of its nationals and those for whom it has consular responsibility in South Sudan, as notified to the Committee;

   e) Arms and related materiel, as well as technical training and assistance, to or in support of the African Union Regional Task Force intended solely for regional counter-LRA operations, as notified in advance to the Committee;

   f) Arms and related materiel, as well as technical training and assistance, solely in support of the implementation of the terms of the peace agreement, as approved in advance by the Committee;

   g) Other sales or supply of arms and related materiel, or provision of assistance or personnel, as approved in advance by the Committee;

3. *Stresses* the importance that notifications or requests for exemptions pursuant to paragraph 2 above contain all relevant information, including the purpose of

the use, the end user, the technical specifications and quantity of the equipment to be shipped and, when applicable, the supplier, the proposed date of delivery, mode of transportation and itinerary of shipments;

Inspections

4. *Underscores* that arms shipments in violation of this resolution risk fueling conflict and contributing to further instability, and *strongly urges* all Member States to take urgent action to identify and prevent such shipments within their territory;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States, in particular States neighbouring South Sudan, to inspect, in accordance with their national authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, in particular the law of the sea and relevant international civil aviation agreements, all cargo to South Sudan, in their territory, including seaports and airports, if the State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains items the supply, sale, or transfer of which is prohibited by paragraph 1 of this resolution for the purpose of ensuring strict implementation of these provisions;

6. *Decides* to authorize all Member States to, and that all Member States shall, upon discovery of items the supply, sale, or transfer of which is prohibited by paragraph 1 of this resolution, seize and dispose (such as through destruction, rendering inoperable, storage or transferring to a State other than the originating or destination States for disposal) of such items and *decides* further that all Member States shall cooperate in such efforts;

7. *Requires* any Member State when it undertakes an inspection pursuant to paragraph 5 of this resolution, to submit promptly an initial written report to the Committee containing, in particular, explanation of the grounds for the inspections, the results of such inspections, and whether or not cooperation was provided, and, if prohibited items for supply, sale, or transfer are found, further *requires* such Member States to submit to the Committee within 30 days a subsequent written report containing relevant details of the inspection, seizure, and disposal, and relevant details of the transfer, including a description of the items, their origin and intended destination, if this information is not in the initial report;

Panel of Experts and Sanctions Committee

8. *Decides* that the tasks of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2206 (2015) shall also include examining and taking appropriate action on information regarding alleged violations or non-compliance with the measures imposed by paragraph 1 of this resolution;

9. *Decides* further that the tasks of the Panel of Experts established pursuant to resolution 2206 shall also include gathering, examining and analyzing information regarding the implementation of the measure in paragraph 1 of this resolution, and reporting to the Committee;

10. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

United Nations S/2016/706

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 August 2016

Original: English

Thirty-second progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2239 (2015), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 30 September 2016 and requested me to keep it informed of the situation in Liberia and the implementation of that resolution. The present report provides an update on major developments since my report of 22 February (S/2016/169), including the assumption by the Government of Liberia of its security responsibilities from UNMIL on 30 June, as well as my recommendation for the extension of the Mission's mandate.

II. Major developments

A. Political situation

2. During the reporting period, considerable attention was focused on the assumption by the Government of Liberia of its security responsibilities from UNMIL, which was achieved by the 30 June deadline established by the Security Council in resolution 2190 (2014) and reaffirmed in subsequent resolutions. Political discourse was also dominated by the upcoming 2017 elections and the fallout from corruption charges levelled against senior officials by the international non-governmental organization Global Witness, as well as the worsening economic situation in the country.

3. In the period leading up to the conclusion of the security transition, there was considerable public anxiety about the ability of the security forces to protect the population and to maintain stability, with reassurances from the Government about the readiness of national security agencies to perform the tasks that UNMIL had previously been undertaking. Given the public distrust of the Government, a group of political and civil society actors threatened to stage mass demonstrations in Monrovia in early March to express their lack of confidence in the capacity of the Liberian institutions to provide security throughout the country. They called off their planned rally, however, at the request of my Special Representative for Liberia and, instead, on 11 March, presented him with a petition addressed to the Security Council, which called for a continued UNMIL presence beyond the elections to be held in October 2017. Against the backdrop of a politically tense environment,

16-13484 (E) 170816

Please recycle

fomented largely by widespread suspicion over the causes of certain high-profile deaths, this development successfully averted the potential for street violence, which has often accompanied such demonstrations. To raise confidence and awareness among the population about its mandate and transition-related activities, UNMIL continued to hold town hall meetings throughout the country, deployed a "peace caravan" comprising traditional communicators and artists to 11 of the 15 counties and dedicated airtime for government officials to convey confidence-building messages about progress in building national security capacity on UNMIL Radio, which broadcasts around the clock in all counties. During a ceremony held on 1 July to mark the assumption of security responsibilities by the Government, the President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, and my Special Representative underscored the fact that the United Nations would continue to support the consolidation of peace in Liberia.

4. During the reporting period, there were several changes in the President's cabinet. In April, the former Minister of Justice, Benedict Sannoh, resigned after tenure of just over a year for reasons that were not made public. In addition, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Amarah Konneh, resigned to take up a position with the World Bank. The ministers were replaced by former River Gee County Senator Frederick Cherue and former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia Boima Kamara, respectively. Both appointments were confirmed by the Senate and the incumbents have assumed their positions.

5. On 11 May, Global Witness published a report entitled "The Deceivers", which detailed allegations of bribery and other corrupt acts, implicating several persons, including senior Liberian officials and members of the ruling Unity Party. On 12 May, the President requested a special presidential task force, which was already established to follow up on other corruption cases, to investigate the charges. The then Chair of the Unity Party, Senator Varney Sherman, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alex Tyler, formerly a senior Unity Party official, were indicted on 24 May on charges of bribery, criminal conspiracy, economic sabotage, criminal soliciting and criminal facilitation. On 25 May, Mr. Sherman was arrested and Mr. Tyler appeared in court under police escort. Both were released on bail but charged in court on the same day. The arrests were met with criticism from some legislators who questioned the authority of the Executive to undertake such investigations. The charges also created divisions within the Legislature, with some legislators calling for the recusal of the Speaker, leading to a series of altercations within the House of Representatives. The Speaker, in turn, accused the President of using the charges to attempt to remove him from office. Meanwhile, divisions within the ruling party deepened, with Mr. Sherman and his supporters lobbying against the President. During the party's convention, held from 7 to 9 July, the Vice-President of Liberia, Joseph Boakai, was elected uncontested as the party's standard bearer, with the support of the President. The election of serving ministers into the party's executive committee drew criticism from political parties and civil society, however, who pointed to the code of conduct for public officials, which prohibits Government employees appointed by the President from engaging in, or using government resources for, partisan political activities.

6. On 17 June, the National Elections Commission published the schedule for the 2017 presidential and legislative elections, including the launch of civic education activities in January 2017, voter registration in February 2017 and the start of official campaigning on 8 August 2017. In June, a decision was reached, through a

process involving the Government, the Commission, the donor community and the United Nations, to adopt an optical mark recognition system for voter registration, rather than a biometric one, given that it would reduce costs and could be achieved in a relatively compressed time frame. Opposition parties expressed concern about possible fraud resulting from the use of the optical mark system.

7. Since my previous report, Alexander Cummings of the opposition party Alternative National Congress declared his intention to run for president, and the Unity Party formally nominated Mr. Boakai as its candidate. The number of political parties has increased to 23, following the registration in May of two new parties, the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction and Vision for Liberia Transformation. The registration of more than 20 additional political parties is pending. My Special Representative engaged regularly with political parties and other stakeholders, encouraging political party dialogue, consultation, information-sharing and coordination through the renewed framework of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee organized by the National Elections Commission.

8. On 17 March, a House of Representatives committee recommended that 6 of the 25 constitutional reform propositions, supported and submitted by the President on 13 August 2015, be taken forward to a referendum. On 26 April, a Senate committee requested that the President provide formulations on the six proposed amendments, which it had yet to receive as at 1 August. Meanwhile, the debate on proposition 24, which seeks to declare Liberia a nation founded on Christian principles, continued to impede progress on the constitutional review process. On 5 March, the National Muslim Council of Liberia temporarily suspended its membership in the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia, in protest of what it perceived as support for the proposal by Christian community leaders, including the Pentecostal bloc of the Liberian Council of Churches whose position was initially unclear. My Special Representative remained extensively engaged with leaders of various religious groups in both communities and other stakeholders with a view to de-escalating the public rhetoric and encouraging constructive dialogue. In May, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights submitted a petition against the provision, which, in its assessment, would undermine unity and peace. The Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) also called upon Liberia to reconsider the petition in the light of the likely consequence that it would entrench religious divides. On 2 and 3 May, the Liberian Council of Churches and the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia, respectively, issued statements expressing their opposition to the proposition, which was followed by the resumed participation of the National Muslim Council of Liberia in the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia. On 6 July, the Senate Judiciary Committee forwarded its report on the constitutional review process to the Senate. The report organized the propositions into eight categories, with a stand-alone category for the controversial proposition 24. Dates for the public hearings in the Senate on the propositions have yet to be determined. In that regard, my Special Representative has been engaging with the leadership of the Legislature to decide on the specific provisions to be carried forward.

9. On 17 May, the President submitted a revised budget for the 2016/17 fiscal year in the amount of $556 million to the Legislature. The proposed budget represents a reduction of 11 per cent compared with 2015/16, owing to austerity measures instituted by the Government in the light of the global decline in the prices of Liberia's export commodities. Those measures include an increase in the

local currency portion of salaries and allowances paid to public employees to reduce foreign currency spending.

B. National reconciliation, political reforms and governance

10. No progress was made during the reporting period in advancing critical pending reform legislation, including with respect to land rights, decentralization and governance. There continued to be delays in advancing national reconciliation, with the Palava Hut initiative stalled. County peace committees, the local-level conflict management mechanism, continued to face funding challenges. Following the directive from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, only three committees, in Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh and Lofa Counties, began to receive budgetary support from their respective county development funds.

11. UNMIL, through its quick-impact projects, provided support for the work of the Peace Ambassador, William Tolbert III, including the consultations held on 8 June with eminent persons on peacebuilding priorities and potential triggers for social unrest leading up to the 2017 elections. On 11 May, the Peace Ambassador organized remembrance ceremonies, with the participation of Christian and Muslim young people, to commemorate the victims of the civil conflict, focusing on youth participation in order to highlight the importance of maintaining social cohesion.

12. Following the expiration of the mandate of the Land Commission in January, the President established an interim land taskforce on 18 March to facilitate the passage of the land authority bill submitted to the Legislature in 2014 and to maintain engagement with relevant partners, donors and other stakeholders in the land sector. On 12 April, the Senate approved the land authority bill, which remained pending as at 1 August, awaiting the concurrence of the House of Representatives. On 28 June, representatives of 18 civil society organizations published a statement warning that the continued failure to formalize customary rights to land within the law could jeopardize peace and security and potentially fuel a backslide into conflict.

13. Between 1 February and 1 August, the Government established county service centres in three counties, as part of the implementation of its deconcentration support plan, which is linked to the decentralization reform process. The centres, which are now functioning in a total of four counties, provide a range of public and legal services, including the issuance of birth certificates, business and driver's licenses and deeds, previously only available in Monrovia. The Government has publically committed to establishing service centres in all 15 counties by the end of the term of the current administration in January 2018.

14. On 19 April, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Government endorsed a revised statement of mutual commitments, in which the Government committed to advancing security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law, promoting national reconciliation, protecting human rights and working towards holding peaceful and inclusive elections in 2017. For its part, the Peacebuilding Commission committed to supporting those peacebuilding efforts by advocating for the necessary resources. In June, a delegation led by the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Macharia Kamau, visited Liberia and other countries in the region to discuss support for peacebuilding priorities, taking into account the impact of the Ebola outbreak.

15. During the period under review, the General Auditing Commission completed the audit of the procurement practices of the Ministry of Public Works with regard to the construction of roads and bridges during the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2013 and the management by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the grants received from the Government of Japan in 2008. In both cases, the Commission uncovered significant improprieties, including breaches of procurement and public financial management laws. The audit reports are now before the Legislature, and a task force has been charged with investigating and proposing appropriate action for allegations of current and past Commission reports. The same task force is currently mandated to investigate the bribery allegations contained in the Global Witness report.

16. On 23 February, the former Minister of Commerce and Industry, Miatta Beyslow, a director in the Ministry, the former managing director of the Liberia Petroleum Refining Company, Nelson Williams, and a deputy managing director for operations were indicted on charges of misapplication of entrusted property, criminal conspiracy, criminal facilitation and violation of the public procurement and concessions procedures and processes, resulting in Government losses of more than $13 million between 2013 and 2015. Twelve former and current government officials are being prosecuted on related criminal charges, whereas charges against Ms. Beyslow were dropped on 20 July 2016.

C. Security situation

17. The security situation remained generally stable, with limited improvements recorded. Major challenges included intermittent public order concerns involving allegations of poor governance and corruption, tensions in the concession areas, suspicion over certain deaths and ritual killings and divisions along religious lines.

18. Perceptions of discrimination, exclusion and marginalization along ethnic or religious lines, underpinned by land disputes and historic resentments, continued to pose risks for tensions turning into violent confrontations. During the period under review, concession-related labour and land disputes, some of which turned violent, were the primary causes of tensions. On 1 April, approximately 700 aggrieved workers of the Cocopa rubber plantation in Nimba County staged a protest to demand several months of salary arrears, after which they received severance packages. UNMIL contributed to the facilitation of the settlement. On 5 April, workers of Sime Darby palm plantation near Tubmanburg in Bomi County demonstrated in protest of the disappearance of a young woman, who was suspected to have been the victim of ritual killing but was later found alive. The Police Support Unit of the Liberia National Police deployed to the scene and arrested two alleged organizers, who were later released. On 15 June, an intervention by the civil society organization Concession Working Group helped to de-escalate a potentially violent land dispute between the Aureus Mining Company and affected communities in Grand Cape Mount County.

19. On 9 May, approximately 150 inhabitants of illegally built structures on the University of Liberia's Fendell campus protested against an eviction and demolition exercise conducted by the Ministry of Public Works, temporarily blocking the Monrovia-Kakata highway.

D. Regional issues

20. On 4 June, Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf became the first woman elected Chair of ECOWAS. In her acceptance speech, she committed to prioritizing the fight against terrorism in West Africa, in collaboration with regional governments and the international community. She also pledged to focus on agricultural development in the region, with the aim of eradicating poverty and ensuring food security.

21. On 6 May, the Government organized a special session on the threat of terrorism in West Africa, bringing together security experts with representatives from ECOWAS member States to devise strategies for preventing and combating terrorism in the region, including through greater collaboration among West African nations. On 16 June, the President signed an executive order approving the legal framework for, and enabling the establishment of, a national early warning and response mechanism coordination centre, in line with Liberia's obligations as an ECOWAS member State. The President of the Commission of ECOWAS, Marcel de Souza, and the President of Liberia met on 17 June to discuss cooperation between Liberia and the regional organization on security and development issues. On 21 June, the Vice-President launched the ECOWAS national early warning and rapid response mechanism in Liberia and constituted its board.

22. UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) continued to support cooperation between their respective host Governments, including the elaboration of joint operational guidance for future security operations to be conducted by the two national armies, as agreed during a quadripartite security meeting held in March in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire. From 11 to 13 May, UNMIL and UNOCI provided logistical support to technical and ministerial meetings of the Mano River Union on peace and security held in Côte d'Ivoire. On 7 June, the Mano River Union held the first meeting of its joint border security and confidence-building unit since the Ebola outbreak in Toulepleu, Côte d'Ivoire, which brought together officials of both Governments, including from security agencies, and representatives of border communities and the United Nations to discuss common cross-border challenges. The meetings concluded with an agreement on a draft subregional counter-terrorism framework and a memorandum of understanding on maritime security, to be finalized and adopted by the respective ministers of defence.

23. On 9 March, a joint team comprising Armed Forces of Liberia and Forestry Development Authority personnel apprehended 20 nationals of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire for illegal farming activities in Tarsala village in Grand Gedeh County, near the Tempo border crossing point. The arrested persons were handed over to the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, which subsequently transferred them to the national police. They remain detained in Zwedru prison where they are currently awaiting trial. On 28 March, Guinean authorities reported the seizure in Macenta, Guinea, near the Guinea-Liberia border, of a motorcycle transporting a cache of weapons, including rockets, rocket launchers and rifles. The authorities are investigating the incident to determine the origin and intended destination of the weapons. On 15 June, a national of Burkina Faso was arrested at a checkpoint in Grand Gedeh County for allegedly being in possession of dynamite intended for use in an illicit goldmine.

E. Humanitarian situation

24. As at 1 August, Liberia was hosting 20,049 registered Ivoirian refugees, including 15,300 in refugee camps and 4,700 in host communities. Although the border with Côte d'Ivoire remained closed at the insistence of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, as a precautionary measure against the Ebola virus disease, humanitarian corridors remained open for the repatriation of Ivorian refugees. Since the resumption of voluntary repatriation operations in December 2015, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has facilitated the return to Côte d'Ivoire of 18,124 refugees. UNHCR remains on track to reach its target of facilitating the repatriation of 25,000 refugees in 2016, but the rate of returns has decreased since peaking at 4,094 in March. This is attributed to the refugees' concerns about security and access to land and other property in areas of return, as well as the onset of the rainy season. The refugees' concerns about conditions in areas of return were conveyed to a delegation from the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, led by the Minister of Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Compensation, which visited the three camps hosting Ivorian refugees in May.

25. On 22 March, Liberia temporarily closed its border with Guinea, following an outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in the Nzérékoré region of Guinea. On 31 March in Monrovia, a woman and her two children tested positive for Ebola, after reportedly entering the country through an unofficial border-crossing point with Guinea. UNMIL engaged its good offices to encourage the reopening of the border in order to reduce unofficial crossings, while also strengthening controls at official checkpoints. The border was reopened after five days, with enhanced joint surveillance at the border. The incident management system, which was activated on 31 March, successfully contained the virus to the three originally infected persons. As part of the outbreak response, the infected persons and those who had been in contact with them received an experimental Ebola vaccine but, these efforts notwithstanding, the mother of the two children died from the virus. On 9 June, the World Health Organization declared Liberia Ebola-free for the fourth time. Infection prevention and control standards continued to be closely monitored, while epidemic response plans were updated to take into account lessons learned from the most recent outbreak.

26. On 9 May, the Legislature passed a disaster management bill, providing for the establishment of a national agency that would be the institution responsible for disaster preparedness, early warning and response. Given that the bill has not yet been formally enacted, no allocations were provided for the agency in the proposed 2016/17 national budget. The United Nations and ECOWAS continued to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including in strengthening the capacity of county disaster management committees, training in the mapping of natural hazards and formulating disaster response plans.

F. Human rights situation

27. The human rights situation continued to be characterized by sexual and gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices, challenges to freedom of speech and weak institutional capacity to promote and protect human rights. No progress was witnessed with respect to implementing the recommendations of the

Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including those aimed at addressing impunity for war or economic crimes.

28. During the reporting period, UNMIL documented 80 reported cases of rape. Of those, 70 survivors were girls, 8 were women and 2 were boys. The actual incidence of rape is assessed as higher. Capacity constraints within the criminal justice system continued to hinder efforts to bring perpetrators to justice. Harmful traditional practices continued to be reported, and often the perpetrators were not prosecuted. Consideration of a domestic violence bill submitted to the Legislature in September 2015 stalled owing to disagreements about provisions that would criminalize female genital mutilation, a commitment made by the Government during the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council on 25 September 2015. The bill was passed in the House of Representatives on 21 July, after the removal of the provisions criminalizing female genital mutilation. Consequently, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice are advocating for separate legislation to criminalize female genital mutilation. On 1 March, the Government and the United Nations launched a joint programme on the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, which will require donor support for its effective implementation.

29. Other harmful traditional practices, including forced initiation into secret societies and trial by ordeal and other punishments for those accused of witchcraft, continued to be reported, and the perpetrators of such practices are rarely held accountable. The Ministry of Internal Affairs, with support from UNMIL, continued to conduct training aimed at sensitizing traditional leaders about the human rights violations inherent in some traditional practices.

30. In June, the Government dropped the criminal libel and sedition charges against Vanderlark Patricks, a prominent civil society activist, and Simeon Freeman, a leading member of the opposition party Movement for Progressive Change, who alleged that the Government had been complicit in the death, under unclear circumstances, of a former executive of a national energy company. My Special Representative continued to advocate for the repeal of legislation that infringes the right to freedom of expression and criminalizes free speech, in violation of the Constitution of Liberia and its international treaty commitments.

31. In April, the final two commissioners were appointed to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights. Some civil society organizations, however, accused the President of violating the law, given that one of the appointees was reportedly not included on the initial list of nominees. Meanwhile, the Commission developed its complaints procedures which, once approved, should improve its operations.

32. Following the standing invitation extended by the Government to special procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council in September 2015, Liberia engaged with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism. In May, the Government of Liberia submitted its common core document, containing general information common to all treaties to which it is a party. This constitutes an important step towards meeting its reporting obligations.

G. Economic situation

33. The global decline in commodity prices and the effects of the Ebola epidemic continued to affect Liberia's economy. Economic growth, which was zero per cent in 2015, is projected to increase to 2.5 per cent in 2016. The fiscal space continued to shrink, however, resulting in a $70 million reduction in the 2015/16 national budget of $622.7 million. The proposed national budget for 2016/17 of $556 million represents an 11 per cent decrease from the 2015/16 fiscal period. The public sector investment plan, which includes $20 million for the 2017 elections and $10 million for implementing outstanding activities under the Government plan for the transition of security responsibilities from UNMIL, represents less than a third of the required $209 million.

34. The value of the Liberian dollar continued to depreciate against the United States dollar, reaching 96 Liberian dollars per United States dollar, compared with 84 Liberian dollars per United States dollar in the first quarter of 2015. On 3 March, the President requested authorization from the Legislature to print additional currency. The request is currently pending approval. This could increase spending in the short term, but poses the risk of further deflation in the value of the local currency against international currencies. In May, the President indicated that she plans to increase the share of government expenditures, including salaries, to be paid in Liberian dollars in order to enable the Central Bank of Liberia to restore its foreign currency reserves, in compliance with International Monetary Fund requirements.

35. On 25 April, the Government undertook a midterm review of its development framework, the Agenda for Transformation, which recommended prioritizing interventions focusing on infrastructure and the agriculture sectors. Although some achievements were attained, notably improvements in the electric power grid and the establishment of county service centres, the Agenda has fallen short with regard to the economic growth projected for 2015/16. The depressed prices of primary export commodities, as well as the impact of Ebola, have reduced gross domestic product to 0.3 per cent from the projected growth of 4.6 per cent.

36. On 14 June, the Legislature ratified the protocol of accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), and Liberia's accession was effective as at 14 July. The Government and WTO are formulating Liberia's post-accession plan. The terms and conditions of accession are intended to facilitate the country's efforts to diversify, modernize and integrate into the global economy. As part of the accession negotiations, Liberia concluded six bilateral market access agreements on goods and three on services.

III. Development of national security and justice capacities

A. Security transition

37. On 1 July, the President, high-level officials and international partners marked the conclusion of the security transition at a ceremony held in Monrovia. The President noted that a number of activities in the transition plan had yet to be implemented and reaffirmed the Government's determination to implement key priority activities before the conclusion of her tenure. The security transition

process involved successful joint cooperation at the strategic and technical levels between the Government, the United Nations and international partners.

38. In accordance with the Government's transition plan, security tasks such as explosive ordnance disposal, maritime patrolling and VIP protection responsibilities were handed over to the Government in May. Some activities under the transition plan, including those relating to logistics for law enforcement agencies, the enactment of legislation on the police and immigration services, remain outstanding owing to insufficient funding, procurement delays and pending legislation. My Special Representative has been engaging with the Government and international partners to prioritize the completion of critical tasks, especially the establishment of civilian oversight boards for the police and immigration, firearms training for immigration personnel and the deployment of public defenders. The Government has allocated $10 million in the 2016/17 national budget to implement critical security transition activities, but it has not yet fully disbursed funds that were previously committed for the implementation of those tasks.

B. National security strategy and architecture

39. Some progress was made in developing the national security architecture. The Government has recommenced the review of the national security strategy, which had been suspended since 2014 owing to the Ebola crisis, and has initiated discussions on the regulation of private security companies. Both processes are being supported by UNMIL. Meanwhile, 8 county and 58 additional district security councils were established during the period under review, bringing their numbers to 12 and 80, respectively. Under the National Security Reform and Intelligence Act of 2011, these councils serve as early warning mechanisms.

40. Gaps in legislation and policy for the security sector continued to persist, including a draft uniform code of military justice that is pending submission to the Legislature. UNMIL has provided technical and advisory support to the Ministries of National Defence and Justice in establishing a framework of criminal accountability for military personnel under the civilian justice system, which was finalized through a memorandum of understanding signed in May. The coming into force of the police and immigration acts, currently being revisited by the Legislature after their initial passage in April, is pending. Meanwhile, work commenced on the drafting of related regulations and administrative instructions, including regulations on the establishment of policy management boards, civilian complaint review boards, disciplinary boards and rights and conditions of service boards.

41. On 24 May, the Senate approved a report by its defence, intelligence and veteran affairs committee on Liberia's vulnerabilities to terrorism and other security threats and recommended ensuring adequate budgetary provisions for the national security sector and the adoption of the national security action plan. On 11 July, the Senate decided to consider terrorism as a threat to Liberia's security. The Liberia National Commission for Small Arms made progress in the management of Government-owned arms and ammunition. The enactment of legislation to regulate firearms owned by private individuals, however, is currently being fine-tuned. With the support of UNMIL, the national police continued to conduct the marking of its arms and ammunitions, in compliance with the ECOWAS Convention on Small

Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, of 2006, and also began efforts to decentralize its small arms control unit.

C. Liberia National Police

42. As at 1 August, the strength of the national police stood at 5,106 officers, of whom 951 were women. No additional deployments were made during the reporting period.

43. In March, a six-month training course on basic policing skills, investigations, human rights and police procedures began for 108 new recruits, of whom 37 were women. The national police training academy also conducted training for 42 middle management officers, of whom 2 were women, in order to strengthen internal management, incident management and crisis response capacity. UNMIL continued to support the national police in enhancing its leadership and its command, control and communication capacities. UNMIL provided three training programmes targeting 65 senior officers, of whom 9 were women. The training, mentoring and equipping of the national police have also led to improvements in its capacity to investigate and preserve crime scenes and collect forensic evidence in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, however, owing to bottlenecks in the justice system, only 7 of 202 cases that resulted in indictments have been fully prosecuted.

44. The transnational crime unit has not been fully operationalized, notwithstanding continued advocacy by the United Nations for the review of its memorandum of understanding, in addition to the implementation of recommendations for its management board, as provided for in the Government's transition plan. Among the challenges were lack of national ownership and protracted capacity and financial shortfalls.

D. Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization

45. As at 1 August, the strength of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization stood at 2,596 officers, of whom 751 were women. In May, 250 recruits, of whom 38 were women, graduated and were deployed to border counties. Seven senior officers obtained diplomas from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration in May. With the support of UNMIL, 20 managers, of whom 5 were women, were trained in change management, command, control and communication, strategic leadership and customer service. UNMIL also provided advice to 19 trainers of immigration personnel on curriculum development and course delivery. Another 196 officers, of whom 18 were women, were trained on document fraud detection, passenger profiling, security threat identification and the irregular movement of migrants. Fifteen human resources officers were deployed outside of Monrovia in May to improve internal management and accountability systems.

46. In order to strengthen border security, UNMIL supported the training of 50 border patrol officers, of whom 18 were women. A committee was also established to screen prospective officers for firearms training.

E. Judicial, legal and corrections institutions

47. As at 1 August, there were 1,333 pretrial detainees nationwide, representing 64 per cent of the prison population. The high percentage is attributed to weak internal oversight capacity within the justice system and outdated legislation, and limited progress was made in implementing measures to address systemic challenges. As a consequence, many citizens continued to rely on traditional justice mechanisms for dispute resolution. UNMIL continued to engage with the Chief Justice and the Minister of Justice to encourage the implementation of outstanding reform measures. The Mission established a working group focused on criminal justice reform comprising the Ministry of Justice and representatives of the judiciary and UNMIL. In April, training began for 60 lay magistrates, of whom 6 were women.

48. During the period under review, there were two prison escapes, down from six recorded during the previous period. UNMIL continued to support the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation with training on security, intelligence and investigations, and also provided prison superintendents with guidance on prison management. Cooperation between the national police and corrections services continued to be strengthened, with support from UNMIL. The national police provide perimeter security for the maximum security prisons in Monrovia and Zwedru, given that budgetary constraints and lack of firearms training prevented the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization from assuming responsibility for those tasks. Meanwhile, prisons were 55 per cent over capacity. To reduce pressure on the corrections system, UNMIL continued to advocate for the use of alternatives to incarceration.

49. UNMIL provided technical support for the review of the Rules of Court and Judicial Canons, the code of conduct for lawyers and judges, and supported a consultative workshop to formulate a witness protection policy. Efforts are also under way, in consultation with national actors, to reform the traditional justice system, bringing it in line with international human rights standards so that it serves as an effective and accountable complement of the formal justice system.

F. Armed Forces of Liberia

50. As at 1 August, the Armed Forces of Liberia comprised 2,236 personnel, of whom 91 were women. On 30 April, the armed forces assumed full responsibility from UNMIL for explosive ordnance disposal. To date, 31 sappers (soldier engineers) have received level I and II training in basic explosive ordnance destruction procedures.

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

A. Military component

51. As indicated in my previous reports, UNMIL has been progressively drawing down since 2006, bringing the mission from its peak authorized strength of 15,250 to the current authorized strength of 1,240. As at 1 August, the force's strength stood at 1,235 personnel, of whom 77 were women. The military

component consists of one infantry battalion based in Monrovia, the associated enablers, a force headquarters and 60 military observers.

52. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2239 (2015), UNMIL withdrew 2,350 troops by 30 June, including an infantry battalion and engineering and support companies, and reduced the personnel within the remaining support units. All assigned force security transition handover tasks have been completed. A new military concept of operations was finalized in July, which takes into account the revised security role of UNMIL as of the conclusion of the security transition. This includes the mandate to support the Liberian security agencies in protecting civilians in the event of a deterioration of the security situation that could risk a strategic reversal of peace and stability in the country, taking into account the Mission's reduced capabilities and areas of deployment. The quick reaction force established within UNOCI in accordance with Council resolution 2162 (2014) remained for over-the-horizon support to UNMIL in the event of a serious deterioration of the security situation in Liberia, without prejudice to its primary responsibility for providing security in Côte d'Ivoire. As part of the drawdown and reconfiguration of the military component, military observers were consolidated in the remaining UNMIL field offices in Gbarnga, Greenville, Harper, Voinjama and Zwedru, in addition to Monrovia, where they work closely with their civilian and police counterparts on monitoring and reporting. As the reconfiguration remains under review, further adjustments to the UNMIL field presence, particularly in Maryland and Sinoe Counties, could be expected.

B. Police component

53. As at 1 August, UNMIL police strength stood at 570 police personnel, against an authorized ceiling of 606 police personnel, including 191 individual police and immigration advisors and 379 police personnel in three formed police units deployed in Gbarnga, Monrovia and Zwedru. Of those personnel, 11.23 per cent were women. The drawdown of UNMIL police was achieved by 30 June as scheduled through a robust planning framework, with 500 formed police personnel and 53 individual police and immigration advisors ending their mission since my last report. A revised concept of police operations was finalized in July, reflecting the Mission's revised security and protection of civilians mandate as at 1 July, taking into account the conclusion of the security transition.

C. Civilian component

54. As at 1 August, 983 civilian personnel, including 138 United Nations Volunteers, were serving with UNMIL. In total, 25.8 per cent of civilian personnel were women.

D. Support considerations

55. UNMIL continued to consolidate its field presence, with five offices remaining in Gbarnga, Greenville, Harper, Voinjama and Zwedru, as well as a mission headquarters and logistics base in Monrovia. The configuration and operation of the Mission and the need for field offices remains under review, which could result in

further adjustments to the UNMIL field presence, in particular in Maryland and Sinoe Counties. Meanwhile, significant progress has been achieved in co-locating UNMIL and the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, with preparations advanced for the United Nations Development Programme and the International Organization for Migration to move into UNMIL headquarters in November.

56. In order to minimize costs to the Organization, the drawdown of military and police personnel and the associated movement of heavy equipment were mostly completed before the rainy season and in line with scheduled rotations. UNMIL has in place strong measures to ensure that the closure of camps is environmentally responsible and is working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment in that regard. Treatment facilities have been put in place to reduce the impact of wastewater on the local infrastructure.

57. Between July 2015 and June 2016, UNMIL closed 32 mission sites, some 28 of which were handed over to the Government. Most of the camps handed over included equipment that was given to the Government, including prefabricated accommodations, communications towers, water and fuel tanks and electrical installations, after careful assessments for each item and the Government's agreement to accept them. The depreciated value of the donated items in all the camps was $1,070,435.25 and, although all items were usable at the time they were given, their continued use will depend on how they are maintained. Throughout the process of closing its camps, UNMIL has coordinated closely with the Government and has prioritized environmental compliance.

E. Conduct and discipline

58. As at 1 August, no cases of sexual exploitation and abuse involving UNMIL personnel were reported. During the period under review, the Mission continued to undertake intensive measures to implement my policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse. This included a campaign launched by UNMIL and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse in Bomi, Bong, Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado and Sinoe Counties, using representatives from government, civil society and religious organizations who carry out awareness-raising and advocacy activities and facilitate victim assistance efforts.

59. UNMIL continued to provide mandatory training on sexual exploitation and abuse and other conduct-related issues for its personnel. The Mission is preparing an action plan to coordinate efforts to address misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse. UNMIL provides assistance and support to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

F. Security and safety of United Nations personnel

60. No major security incidents against United Nations personnel were recorded during the reporting period, although there were two residential fires, 13 non-weapons-related crimes and seven weapons-related crimes. Four United Nations personnel died, one from suicide and three from natural causes, including one from Lassa fever. There were 75 road traffic accidents involving United Nations

vehicles, 10 of which resulted in injuries and 1 of which caused the death of a civilian pedestrian.

61. United Nations facilities, assets and operations were affected by eight fires, seven burglaries, eight thefts, three intrusion-related incidents, three attempted thefts and one attempted burglary. During the reporting period, there were also two peaceful demonstrations.

V. Financial aspects

62. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/278, appropriated the amount of $197.2 million for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNMIL beyond 30 September 2016, the cost for maintaining the Mission would be limited to the amounts approved by the Assembly.

63. As at 4 August 2016, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for the United Nations Mission in Liberia amounted to $81.6 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $4,852.5 million.

64. As at 31 July 2016, amounts owed to troop- and formed police-contributing countries totalled some $6.4 million. Reimbursement of costs relating to troops and formed police units has been made for the period up to 30 April 2016, whereas partial reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 31 March 2016, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VI. Observations

65. Liberia reached a historic milestone on its path to lasting peace, on 30 June, when the Government fully assumed its sovereign responsibilities for maintaining stability and protecting civilians. I welcome this development as an indication that the country has turned a corner in the direction of self-reliance in its security affairs. I commend the efforts of the Government of Liberia to successfully achieve the security transition, and I note the attempts at passing legislation on police and immigration services and firearms and ammunition control. I urge all actors to move expeditiously towards their enactment. The improved capacity and professionalism of the national security institutions, demonstrated by their protection of the population independently of UNMIL in the weeks since assuming all security responsibilities, is very encouraging. In this connection, I strongly encourage the Government's continued outreach and communication to enhance public confidence in the ability of the national security services to protect the population.

66. Efforts must continue to be in line with the commitments made in the Agenda for Transformation and the national security strategy of Liberia. These include the need to engage communities, improve operational effectiveness, reduce corruption and increase public confidence through the oversight, accountability, professionalism and legitimacy of the security sector. The transformative reforms under way in Liberia are accompanied by long-term challenges and will require increased investment by the Government and its partners, who have sometimes been

reluctant to meet resource gaps. Predictable funding is essential for the reforms to take root and to ensure the availability of the capacity and resources necessary for the Government to meaningfully deploy the security forces throughout the country and sustain recurring expenses.

67. Given that protecting human rights is fundamental for consolidating peace, rule of law must be equally applicable and accessible to all citizens. Judicial capacities will thus require strengthening, and the Government must take more resolute action against corruption and exclusion and build the population's confidence in their leaders and national institutions.

68. I welcome the Government's efforts to address recent corruption allegations. The President has rightly identified this scourge as a major threat that continues to undermine public and investor confidence. It is critical to address corruption irrespective of political or familial affiliation while ensuring full respect for due process and fundamental human rights during all stages of investigation. I am concerned that recent allegations involving senior Liberian officials have had a negative impact on the working relationship between the Executive and the Legislature, which is blocking progress on critical reform bills. All elected officials entrusted with furthering the interests of the Liberian people should put the country's needs first, including by overcoming disagreements and collaborating to advance the important work that remains to be done.

69. I welcome improvements in the overall peace and security situation of Liberia, concession-related disputes continue to pose risks to stability, in particular when promises made to communities with regard to economic and social development opportunities are not honoured, the environment is degraded and workers' salaries are not paid. I therefore urge the Government to intensify its efforts to hold concessionaires accountable, pass critical legislation such as the land authority bill and work towards further administrative decentralization.

70. Furthermore, I remain very concerned about the high rate of sexual and gender-based violence, in particular against very young girls, and the continued prevalence of harmful traditional practices, such as female genital mutilation. In that regard, I note with regret that the Domestic Violence Act in the House of Representatives, passed on 21 July, excluded the provision prohibiting female genital mutilation. I welcome efforts aimed at enhancing the protection of women and girls, including the launch of a joint Government and United Nations programme on the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence and harmful traditional practices, and call upon partners to provide funding and other support to the five-year strategy.

71. As the 2017 presidential and legislative elections approach, I stress to all political actors and their supporters the importance of adhering to the rule of law and respecting democratic principles and constitutional order. The National Elections Commission has a significant task ahead in sustaining engagement with all 23 registered political parties in support of a transparent and credible electoral process. I welcome in that regard the reinvigoration of the Inter-Party Consultative Committee and the Commission's efforts to engage with the political parties on electoral timelines and amendments to elections law through this important platform. I underscore the importance of free speech and a free media to a healthy democracy and encourage urgent action to repeal libel and sedition laws, which are inconsistent with the Declaration of Table Mountain on press freedom in Africa. All

actors must encourage broad and inclusive participation, in particular of women and young people, in all electoral processes.

72. I remain deeply concerned about the undercurrents of religious and racial intolerance injected into the constitutional review process to date and welcome those religious and traditional leaders who have articulated positions of plurality. I urge political leaders to maintain a responsible approach and secure an inclusive Liberia that protects its diversity. The process presents an opportunity for the people of Liberia to articulate and take ownership of a shared sense of nationhood, and this should not be wasted.

73. I also call upon the Government of Liberia to take forward a meaningful national reconciliation process in order to satisfy the high demand for political and social conciliation and integration, as well as to appease public perceptions of its inability or unwillingness to provide justice. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission set out a series of critical recommendations whose implementation would help to address impunity and exclusion and address systemic and structural deficits in the State and society that drove conflict. However, the implementation of those recommendations, made public in 2009, remains thwarted by an absence of political will, weak institutional capacity, insufficient resources and a lack of effective coordination.

74. The serious economic downturn Liberia is facing underscores the importance of shifting growth models, from one that is narrowly focused on capital infrastructure investments, concessions and extractive industries to one more diversified, sustainable and focused on local production and employment opportunities. Otherwise, an increasingly constrained fiscal space will limit opportunities for development and service provision and ensure persistent high unemployment, in particular among young people, thereby threatening stability. I therefore welcome the accession of Liberia to the World Trade Organization, which provides an important opportunity for least-developed countries to engage with the global economy within the framework of the rules-based trading system.

75. I commend the continued efforts to strengthen response and preparedness with regard to the Ebola virus disease, as demonstrated by the swift and effective action to contain the most recent outbreak and the declaration, for the fourth time, that Liberia is Ebola-free. It is of paramount importance that this high level of attention on the Ebola virus is sustained, including through early-warning monitoring and surveillance systems at the national and community levels, in order to prevent renewed outbreaks.

76. I note with satisfaction that UNHCR remains on track to reach its target of facilitating the voluntary return of 25,000 Ivorian refugees to their homes in 2015, notwithstanding the serious challenges posted by heavy rains and poor infrastructure. Achieving conditions conducive to sustainable return requires the continued action of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire, and I therefore welcome efforts it has made to listen to, and address, the concerns of refugees about security, land and other issues in areas of return in western Côte d'Ivoire. UNMIL and UNOCI and their respective United Nations country teams will continue to support the Governments of Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia to stabilize their shared border.

77. I congratulate Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf for once again being in the vanguard — the first woman elected by her peers as Chair of ECOWAS, an organization that played a

critical role in restoring peace to Liberia and that remains the preeminent forum for regional security and economic cooperation. Liberia hereby enjoys an opportunity to develop mechanisms at the national level in areas where ECOWAS provides essential leadership, such as security sector reform and early warning and response. Under Mrs. Johnson-Sirleaf's leadership, ECOWAS will undoubtedly also advance its ongoing efforts to collaboratively mitigate the threat posed by violent extremism in West Africa.

78. As indicated in my previous reports, the conclusion of the security transition should trigger a reimagining of United Nations engagement in Liberia. In accordance with the request made by the Security Council, in its resolution 2239 (2015), I will deploy an assessment mission to Liberia in September to consult with the Government and other stakeholders and transmit my recommendations in a special report on the future of UNMIL and a possible successor United Nations presence, in November. In the meantime, I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNMIL for a period of three months, until 31 December 2016, with its current mandate and authorized strength.

79. I would like to thank my Special Representative for Liberia, Farid Zarif, as well as all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel for their continued commitment to peace and stability in Liberia. My appreciation also goes to the troop- and police-contributing countries, donor countries, regional and multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, the Peacebuilding Commission and United Nations offices, funds, programmes and specialized agencies, all of which continue to provide invaluable support to Liberia. I wish to recognize in particular the contribution made by the African Union, ECOWAS and the Mano River Union in restoring and sustaining peace in Liberia.

Annex

United Nations Mission in Liberia: military and police strength as at 1 August 2016

Country	Military component				Formed police units	Police officers
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total		
Argentina	–	–	–	–		–
Bangladesh	4	4	–	8		4
Benin	1	1	–	2		–
Bhutan	–	–	–	–		2
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1	–	–	1		–
Bosnia and Herzegovina	–	–	–	–		2
Brazil	1	1	–	2		–
Bulgaria	1	–	–	1		–
China	1	3	124	128	140	15
Ecuador	–	–	–	–		–
Egypt	5	1	–	6		1
Ethiopia	3	2	–	5		–
France	–	–	–	–		–
Gambia	3	–	–	3		14
Germany	–	–	–	–		2
Ghana	7	3	55	65		26
India	–	–	–	–	120	4
Indonesia	1	–	–	1		–
Jordan	–	–	–	–		1
Kenya	–	–	–	–		13
Kyrgyzstan	–	–	–	–		2
Malaysia	2	1	–	3		–
Myanmar	2	–	–	2		–
Namibia	1	1	–	2		3
Nepal	2	2	15	19		9
Niger	2	–	–	2		–
Nigeria	9	5	691	705	119	21
Norway	–	–	–	–		6
Pakistan	4	7	88	99		–
Poland	–	–	–	–		3
Republic of Korea	–	–	–	–		6
Republic of Moldova	1	–	–	1		–
Romania	–	–	–	–		1
Russian Federation	1	–	–	1		–
Rwanda	–	–	–	–		–

Country	Military component				Formed police units	Police Officers
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total		
Serbia	1	–	–	1		–
Sri Lanka	–	–	–	–		3
Sweden	–	–	–	–		9
Switzerland	–	–	–	–		2
Thailand	–	–	–	–		1
Togo	1	1	–	2		–
Turkey	–	–	–	–		2
Uganda	–	–	–	–		5
Ukraine	3	2	160	165		1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	–	–	–	–		2
United States of America	3	5	–	8		–
Yemen	–	1	–	1		1
Zambia	1	–	–	1		16
Zimbabwe	1	–	–	1		14
Total	**2**	**40**	**160**	**11**	**379**	**191**

Map No. 4211 Rev. 41 UNITED NATIONS
August 2016 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

S/2016/706

16-13681

21/21

United Nations S/2016/707

Security Council

Distr.: General
12 August 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 12 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward a copy, of the resolutions unanimously passed by the Senate and the National Assembly of Pakistan on 22 July and 1 August 2016, respectively, on the grave situation in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

It is requested that the resolutions kindly be circulated as a document of the Security Council, in connection with the item entitled "The India-Pakistan question".

(*Signed*) Nabeel **Munir**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d' affaires a.i.

16-14078 (E) 180816

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 12 August 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Resolution No. 271 of the Senate of Pakistan

The Senate of Pakistan, after having detailed discussions and deliberations on adjournment motions moved by Senators from all parliamentary parties on the unprecedented State terrorism, brutal killings, human rights violations and restrictions on freedom of expression including mass and social media restrictions in Indian-held Kashmir, unanimously resolves to express solidarity with the oppressed and struggling people of Indian-held Kashmir in their latest popular, spontaneous, indigenous and widespread upsurge against the illegal and unjust occupation.

The House takes note that, since the pivotal martyrdom of Burhan Wani, and scores of innocent civilians, the unprecedented brutality of the Indian security forces in the Valley have resulted in an ongoing massacre leading to over 50 fatalities, 3,500 injuries and nearly 150 persons blinded and critically maimed.

Apart from the fifth generation of Kashmiris facing near-genocidal policies of the State, with the highest soldier-to-civilian ratio in the world as over 700,000 troops and paramilitary remain as occupiers in a Valley with a population of 4 million, black laws reinforce the egregious human rights violations. Black laws like the Public Safety Act, the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Forces Special Powers Act and other punitive measures should be immediately repealed since these are repugnant to fundamental rights and human dignity encoded in universal laws and civilized norms. The proliferation of mass graves and the blatant use of lethal and proscribed non-lethal weapons testify to this chilling reality.

To cover up these execrable crimes against humanity, the "world's largest democracy", India, has resorted to the worst kind of censorship including print, electronic and social media blanket bans. This attempt to black out voices of truth coming out from behind this "Iron Curtain" of terror and shame has included intimidation and harassment of journalists, conscientious objectors and human rights defenders.

The Senate, representing the sentiments of the entire Federation of Pakistan,

Strongly and unequivocally condemns these blatant violations of international and human rights laws, and

Urges the international community, intergovernmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, elected representatives and bodies, human rights organizations, civil society and media organizations working for freedom of expression to respond to this urgent call of conscience by implementing forthwith the United Nations resolutions on the inalienable right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Moved by Senator Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq, Leader of the House, on his own behalf and on behalf of the entire House

Unanimously passed by the Senate of Pakistan on 22 July 2016

Resolution adopted by the National Assembly of Pakistan on 1 August 2016

The National Assembly of Pakistan strongly condemns the recent atrocities perpetrated on innocent Kashmiris by Indian security forces in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, including brutal killings of more than 50 persons, indiscriminate shooting and beatings causing injuries to over 5,000 persons, gross human rights violations and blanket restrictions on freedom of expression, especially on print, electronic and social media. The use of inhumane pellet guns which blinded unarmed protestors including women and children is especially deplorable and is against the canons of international humanitarian laws.

This House denounces these reprehensible acts of unprecedented State terrorism by India. It is confident that these blatant violations of international law cannot deter the valiant, oppressed people of Jammu and Kashmir from continuing to press their demand for realization of their right to self-determination, which is enshrined in numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions.

This House salutes, and expresses complete solidarity with, the brave people of Indian Occupied Kashmir in their latest popular, spontaneous and peaceful protests against the illegal occupation by India and extrajudicial killing of Kashmiri youth leader Burhan Wani and other innocent persons. It reiterates its continuing political, moral and diplomatic support for this just struggle.

This House calls upon the Government to press the international community, inter-governmental and inter-parliamentary organizations, international non-governmental organizations and civil society and media organizations to urge the Government of India to immediately:

(1) stop all violations of the human rights of the people in Indian Occupied Kashmir and acts of State terrorism;

(2) repeal all black laws like the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990, the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act 1978 and others which are repugnant to fundamental rights and human dignity;

(3) release all political prisoners, including the Hurriyat leadership;

(4) lift all restrictions on the media and stop intimidation and harassment of journalists; and

(5) implement Security Council resolutions promising the right of self-determination to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

(6) This House also demands that the Human Rights Council in Geneva should be requested to immediately send a fact-finding mission to Indian Occupied Kashmir to investigate human rights violations by Indian security forces.

United Nations S/2016/708

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 August 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 15 August 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the latest oral update by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (see annex) and its report entitled "'They came to destroy': ISIS Crimes Against the Yazidis",[1] received from Choi Kyonglim, President of the Human Rights Council, in accordance with Council resolution 31/17 (2016).

I would be grateful if you could bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

[1] An advance version is available from ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session32/Pages/ListReports.aspx.

16-14112 (E) 180816

Please recycle

Annex

Statement by Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, to the Human Rights Council

Geneva, 21 June 2016

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council, I am reminded that the Commission has been reporting on violations by all parties to the Syrian conflict for half of that time. When I last presented to the Human Rights Council three months ago, there was a moment of hope. Due to the agreement reached in Munich earlier this year, a degree of normalcy was achieved in some parts of the country by the cessation of hostilities sanctioned by the Security Council. For the first time, lives were being saved, evidencing the pivotal role of the cessation of hostilities and the need to maximize it.

But the situation has progressively deteriorated as battles rage once more for control of territory or resources. I must sadly report to you that, during this period, civilians from all facets of the Syrian mosaic continued to be the main victims of this seemingly endless conflict. Violence, destruction and hunger remain a dominant feature of Syrian lives. Across the country, civilians struggle to exist under daily air strikes by Government forces, in addition to indiscriminate attacks by non-governmental armed groups and United Nations Security Council-listed terrorist groups, including ISIS, Jabhat al-Nusra and their associates.

In Aleppo and Idlib, ongoing attacks have claimed hundreds of casualties. Many of them are children. Some of them were born during the war, and died without seeing its end. Children are also vulnerable to other abuses. The Commission is particularly concerned with allegations, which we are investigating, that Jabhat al-Nusra and other Al-Qaida-affiliated groups have recruited hundreds of children under 15 in Idlib.

Targeted aerial assaults on hospitals and clinics have resulted in scores of civilian deaths, including much-needed medical workers. With medical care difficult — and in some areas, impossible — to access, there has been a rise in infant and maternal mortality. More than 700 doctors and medical personnel have been killed in attacks on hospitals since the beginning of the conflict. As civilian casualties mount, the number of medical facilities and staff decreases, limiting even further access to medical care.

Locations essential to civilian life such as markets and bakeries continue to be bombarded. With each attack, terrorized survivors are left more vulnerable by the massive destruction and damage of civilian infrastructure. Schools, hospitals, mosques, water stations — they are all being turned into rubble.

Thousands of Syrians remain detained by all parties to the conflict. Vast numbers are held in governmental detention centres. Many are tortured and die in detention. Countless numbers of people remain missing, some for years, as their families hope against hope for news of their loved ones.

Besieged populations are among those paying the highest price for warfare. Despite widespread condemnation of sieges as a tactic of war, no sieges have been lifted in recent months. Aid reaches less than half of the 600,000 people trapped in

those areas. A 12-year-old refugee girl from Madaya showed the Commissio. the will she wrote when she thought she was going to die of hunger. In it, she asked her mother to remember her laughter.

The Commission was heartened by the news of delivery of humanitarian aid to Darayya, which was to provide relief to its residents for the first time in four years. But this sentiment would prove illusory. The very next day Darayya was heavily bombed, and the distribution of humanitarian aid, including food, was seriously hindered.

Bearing in mind the key principle that access to humanitarian aid is unconditional, the recent commitment to granting access to 15 of the besieged areas is a step in the right direction. The ultimate solution, however, lies with the lifting of all sieges and an end to belligerents using starvation as a weapon of war.

Ongoing violence continues to prevent people from returning to their homes. More than half of the country's population remains displaced. This is an astounding number which shows no signs of abating. Tens of thousands are trapped between frontlines and borders in the north and south of Syria. Those who fled their homes have not always found safety, as we were painfully reminded in May when strikes on two camps for internally displaced persons in Idlib governorate claimed more civilian lives.

Those who brave the journey to seek safety outside Syria are exposed to equally deadly risks. In desperation, they place their lives in the hands of trafficking and smuggling networks. Thousands of men, women and children have drowned trying to cross the Mediterranean in overcrowded, unseaworthy vessels. Thousands of unaccompanied children who disappeared after arriving in Europe are feared to be exploited by criminal networks.

It is imperative that concerned governments take action.

Rescue operations save hundreds of lives. But the international response must go further. Member States must do more to actively counteract those networks which place hundreds of lives at risk with each journey they undertake. Immediate steps must be taken to trace missing children and give them the protection that they need. But these are short-term solutions. Countries affected by the refugee crisis must grasp that, in the long run, the solution lies in a peaceful and stable Syria. They have a role to play to make that aspiration a reality. States need to support vehemently, in word and deed, attempts to move belligerents to the peace table.

Syrians are the main victims of this conflict, but they are not the only ones. Last week, the Commission reported on the continuing genocide against the Yazidis of Sinjar (Iraq), including thousands of women and girls still being held in Syria by ISIS. We spoke to dozens of survivors and reviewed hundreds of pages of corroborative material. Detailed testimony after detailed testimony set out and reiterated the systematic nature of the attack and abuse, and those who perpetrated it. ISIS public statements overtly show its intent to destroy the Yazidi as a group. As we speak, Yazidi women and girls are still sexually enslaved, subjected to brutal rapes and beatings. They are bought and sold in markets, passed from fighter to fighter like chattel, their dignity being ripped from them with every passing day. Boys are taken from their mothers' care and forced into ISIS training camps once they reach the age of 7.

The finding of genocide should and must trigger an examination of each State's obligations to prevent and punish this crime. The threat that genocide poses to international peace and security must lead to much more assertive action by the international community and especially by the Security Council, which is in the position to adopt measures to stop the genocide. Moreover, the Commission's reports have underlined numerous violations against other religious-ethnic groups, and we continue to investigate ISIS crimes against Alawites, Assyrians, Christians, Shias and Sunnis who reject their ideology.

The Syrian people cannot afford to wait anymore.

The only way out of this war is to find a political solution, which Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura relentlessly pursues. To come to this solution, warring parties need to immediately stop fighting and resume peace talks. It is high time that all parties show that they are genuinely committed to the peace process by agreeing to confidence-building measures. These should include ending indiscriminate bombardments; granting humanitarian access to besieged populations; the release of all prisoners arbitrarily detained or abducted, particularly the elderly, women and children; the independent monitoring of detention centres; and the establishment of mechanisms to deal with cases of missing and disappeared persons.

Such measures are the beginning of all warring parties agreeing to be accountable to the Syrian people, the very people they purport to represent and thereby have a duty to serve and protect.

Victims are calling for accountability. The response to their quest for justice must echo in the corridors of power, including at the level of the Security Council. But accountability in a larger sense is broader than criminal justice. It is a long-term process that must be nurtured and rooted in basic respect for international rule of law.

It is the Commission's task to convey to the Council the seemingly interminable sufferings of the Syrian people. We will continue to investigate violations of international law and to identify perpetrators. But to end their suffering, we need more. We need all States to insist time and time again that influential States and the Security Council unconditionally support the political process. That they facilitate and foster dialogue among the warring parties. That they do not compromise for anything less than long-lasting peace.

United Nations

S/2016/709

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 August 2016

Original: English

Letter dated 15 August 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached letter, dated 22 July 2016, from the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg (see annex), which transmits the report on the international security presence in Kosovo, covering the period from 1 April to 30 June 2016.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

16-14115 (E) 160816

Please recycle

Annex

In accordance with paragraph 20 of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I attach herewith a report on the Kosovo Force operations covering the period from 1 April to 30 June 2016 (see enclosure). I would appreciate your making the present report available to the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jens **Stoltenberg**

Enclosure

Report to the United Nations on Kosovo Force operations

1. The present report is provided in accordance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and covers the period from 1 April to 30 June 2016.

2. As at 30 June 2016, the total number of Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops in theatre remained approximately 4,600.

3. There were no major security incidents during the reporting period.

Security situation and operations

4. The security situation in Kosovo remained stable during the reporting period, with no major security incidents. The implementation of the European Union-facilitated First Agreement of Principles governing the Normalization of Relations reached by Belgrade and Pristina on 19 April 2013 continues to have a positive impact on the security situation and freedom of movement remains unimpeded Kosovo-wide.

5. During the reporting period, KFOR conducted normal framework operations across the area of operations. KFOR continued to monitor the situation and units conducted situational awareness patrols. KFOR continued to work in close coordination with the Kosovo Police and the European Rule of Law Mission (EULEX). KFOR remained ready to provide immediate intervention if required. However, there was no requirement for direct intervention by KFOR as third responder.

6. The main event for KFOR during the reporting period was an exercise involving multiple KFOR units, EULEX and the Kosovo Police, focused on refining procedures for managing civil disturbance scenarios.

7. The KFOR mission to contribute to a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement continued as part of a comprehensive international effort.

Summary

8. During the reporting period, KFOR continued to contribute to maintaining both a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement in close coordination with EULEX and the Kosovo Police. The close coordination on the ground between KFOR (in its capacity as third responder), EULEX (in its capacity as second responder) and the Kosovo Police (in its capacity as first responder) continued to be highly effective.